

# DESERT WIND

## 2014 Touriga Nacional

<b>Cases produced:</b>	110
<b>Vineyard:</b>	Desert Wind Winery Estate Vineyard
<b>Appellation:</b>	Yakima Valley, WA
<b>Harvested:</b>	October 28, 2014
<b>Fermentation:</b>	Open top fermentation in bins with punch downs three times per day; eight days of skin contact
<b>Blend:</b>	75% Touriga Nacional, 25% Souzao
<b>Final #s:</b>	Alcohol 13.4 % • TA 5.0 g/L • pH 4.17
<b>Release Date:</b>	February 15, 2016
<b>UPC:</b>	768154231960

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

A less common varietal from Portugal, Touriga Nacional is traditionally used in making port and blends from the Duoro region. Touriga Nacional thrives in hot, high altitude desert regions, such as the Yakima valley, producing small blue-black fruits with well-structured tannins and opulent aromatics. The Desert Wind Touriga Nacional was fermented in open-top bins; after primary fermentation, the free run and press wine were blended and aged in neutral oak barrels for 14 months to create a soft palate and maintain the lavish aromas. The resulting wine displays a complex nose of caramelized sugar, purple flowers and dried plums, complemented by a luxuriously soft palate of white tea and persimmons. This rich wine finishes with notes of leather and dried roses. Recommended drinking period: 2016-2025.

### VINEYARD NOTES

Located at approximately 560 feet elevation, the Estate Vineyard is planted to small quantities of Portuguese red wine varieties: Touriga Nacional, Souzão, and Tinto Cão. With its head-trained, densely spaced vines, a layer of heat-retaining basalt, and selection of unusual varieties, the Estate Vineyard represents a style of farming more common in Europe than Eastern Washington.

Planted in 2007, this vineyard was originally intended to serve both a decorative and experimental function; to our delight we discovered it also produced excellent fruit with flavor profiles unlike those from our larger Wahluke Slope vineyard sites. The basalt stones allow the soil to retain moisture and negate the need for tilling the soil while radiating additional heat when the temperatures dip at night.

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